

1 A MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOLFER GENE TORRES AND
3 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS
4 UNIVERSITY TO RENAME THE LAS VEGAS GOLF COURSE FOR HIM.
5

6 WHEREAS, Gene Torres first became a caddy at the
7 Trinidad, Colorado municipal golf course at the age of twelve
8 in order to help his family financially; and

9 WHEREAS, Gene Torres qualified for his first major golf
10 tournament in 1954 at the age of fifteen; and

11 WHEREAS, Gene Torres placed in three national Jaycees
12 tournaments by the time he was seventeen and in 1956 tied for
13 tenth place with Jack Nicklaus, who was then another aspiring
14 junior golfer; and

15 WHEREAS, Gene Torres won the Colorado state high school
16 golf tournament in his senior year of high school in 1956 in a
17 competition with only one classification for all golfers and
18 in the same year won the club championship at the Trinidad
19 municipal golf course and at the Alamosa municipal golf
20 course; and

21 WHEREAS, Gene Torres moved to Las Vegas, after serving
22 in the United States navy and winning several regional golf
23 tournaments, to manage the New Mexico highlands university
24 golf course; and

25 WHEREAS, Gene Torres served for forty-two years as a

1 professor in the physical education department at New Mexico
2 highlands university and taught golf to thousands of
3 students; and

4 WHEREAS, Gene Torres won the Rocky Mountain open in
5 1965, making his professional golfing debut; and

6 WHEREAS, Gene Torres started the New Mexico highlands
7 golf team in 1967 and, thereafter, personally paid expenses
8 for team participation in several golf tournaments,
9 developing teams with a sixty percent winning record; and

10 WHEREAS, Gene Torres won his first New Mexico open in
11 1968 and went on to win four years in a row; and

12 WHEREAS, Gene Torres became a member of the professional
13 golfers' association of America in 1970 and in 1972 won the
14 Colorado open and came in second to Lee Trevino in the New
15 Mexico open; and

16 WHEREAS, Gene Torres has had more than eighty
17 professional golf tournament wins and has been recognized
18 with the Pacific golf association lifetime achievement award
19 and the southwest section player of the year award; and

20 WHEREAS, Gene Torres has shared his golfing philosophy
21 and skills with Senator Pete Campos and his family, and
22 Senator Campos will always remain grateful for his
23 unconditional friendship; and

24 WHEREAS, Gene Torres has built a long and distinguished
25 career as a professional educator and mentor; and

1 WHEREAS, Gene Torres is the father of two sons, three
2 daughters, fourteen grandchildren and four great-
3 grandchildren, as well as husband to Dodie, his wife of
4 forty-four years;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Gene Torres has been an anchor of
7 the Las Vegas community; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate of the state of
9 New Mexico respectfully request that the New Mexico highlands
10 university golf course be renamed the Gene Torres Links at
11 Las Vegas; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the board of regents of New Mexico highlands
14 university.

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25